(c) and (d) The Government has seen reports of nuclear experts, academics, analysts and former diplomats expressing a wide variety of views on the extent and implications of the separation of nuclear facilities. The Government has consulted all relevant organizations in addressing the issue of separation. The India-US Working Group on civil nuclear energy, led by the Foreign Secretary, has representatives from the National Security Council Secretariat, Department of Atomic Energy and Ministry of External Affairs.

Visit of Japanese foreign minister

1038. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese Foreign Minister visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the areas identified during the meeting; and

(c) the proposed investment in India by Japan during the coming two years and *vice versa*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan, Taro Aso to India from January 3-4, 2006, the two sides discussed a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. It was agreed to conduct Foreign Minister-level talks with a strategic perspective and to utilise the existing Foreign Office Consultations at Secretary/Deputy Minister-level to prepare for the Foreign Minister-level dialogue. The two sides also agreed to launch an annual dialogue on disarmament and non-proliferation. The discussions also covered cooperation in trade, economy, defence, energy, and science and technology.

(c) The Governments of India and Japan agreed to make a special effort, in collaboration with the private sector, to encourage higher levels of investment by Janpanese companies in India, as also expand operations of Indian companies in Japan.